

## FINDS GRAFT AMONG APARTMENT AGENTS

Mayor's Committee Learns One Man Got \$1,000 Bonus for an Apartment.

## TENANTS' HOWLS GROW

Naval Officer Offers to Fight Landlord Who Raised Rent \$17 in His Absence.

Some agents and superintendents of apartment houses are among the latest to take advantage of the get rich quick and profiteering game, according to men who are bearing the brunt of the work of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering.

Cases are on record where the agents and superintendents made anywhere from \$10 to \$1,000 as a reward for finding apartments for sorely distressed persons of whom they were in the habit of profiting.

In one instance a lease for an apartment, which rented for \$2,500 a year, expired. The tenant sought long and diligently for another apartment and failed. Then he appealed to the superintendent of an apartment where the rents were scheduled at \$2,500. He got what he was looking for and the superintendent got \$1,000.

Men and women who have been compelled to take their rent troubles to the committee for adjustment have given information to the effect that agents and superintendents of buildings are making a very big business out of finding apartments in buildings over which they are wholly or partly in control.

Arbitrates 17 Cases in Night.

The committee, of which Nathan Hirsch is chairman, is working with full speed. Complaints of jacked up rents are being made more numerous as the leasing date of October 1 approaches. Capt. Charles A. Goldsmith arbitrated cases for the committee from 1 o'clock Tuesday night until 3 o'clock yesterday morning in the Kings county Courthouse in Brooklyn, and didn't stop once. Of seventeen cases which came before him thirteen were settled. Practically all were adjusted on the 50-50 basis, that is, the landlords agreed to accept one-half of the increased rents demanded by the tenants. In one case alone sixty-two tenants were saved \$6 a month and the landlord was obliged under the agreement to reduce by \$4,484 the income on which he had been figuring.

As Capt. Goldsmith was putting the finishing touches to an alleged rent profiteering case in which he saved 35 tenants from being evicted, somebody stole the best fish umbrella he ever owned.

The bulk of the cases are being handled by the Captain and Walter S. Kennedy, Assistant Corporation Counsel in charge of the committee's legal affairs at headquarters.

The liveliest case before Mr. Kennedy yesterday was that involving Lieut. P. J. Comerford, U. S. N. tenant, and H. Stern, landlord. Before it was over the Lieutenant offered to fight it out with his fists at any convenient place the landlord would design to select. He declared that he would be delighted to take the landlord to a ship and pitch him overboard.

Comerford received five wounds in the Spanish-American War and was in the service during the last war. He has been a tenant in Stern's house at 144 West 11th street and until some time ago paid \$15 a month rent. Then the landlord notified Mr. Comerford that the rent would be raised \$5 and she declined to pay. Later she got notice of another raise of \$15 a month, or \$17 in all, and again refused, saying she would have to consult her husband, who was then at sea.

When Lieut. Comerford returned and heard the story of the rent increase he appealed to the Committee on Rent Profiteering for redress, saying that he was protected from the increase by the soldier and sailors' relief bill.

Landlord Is Obstinate.

Stern contended that the Lieutenant was not protected by the Federal act because he was no longer in active service. The Lieutenant on the other hand insisted that he is in reserve, drawing a retirement allowance of \$12 a month. He contended that the rent increase was not lawful and he was expecting orders momentarily to sail.

Mr. Kennedy strongly advised the landlord to permit the tenant to remain in the house, Comerford saying he would hand up the increased rent demanded. The landlord, however, said he proposed to stand on his constitutional rights and that the tenant would have to leave if he stood on this stand that caused the Lieutenant to invite the landlord to fight it out.

Mr. Kennedy said he would look further into the legal status and in the meanwhile referred certain alleged salary violations to the Tenement House Department for investigation.

REBUKES BAY STATE CAR MEN.

State Board Rules They Are Bound to Accept Award.

Boston, Sept. 5.—The State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration ruled today that the employees of the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway Company were bound to accept the award of 12 per cent. increase in wages granted by the National War Labor Board. The car men for a ruling in their favor, but the award was illegal because the War Labor Board had not considered the prevailing rate of wages.

The decision says that the War Labor Board's failure to consider any evidence except that purporting to show the increase in the cost of living is "not sufficient justification for the employees to resort to a strike."

The parties, the decision says, "having by agreement submitted the question in dispute to the National War Labor Board, are bound to abide by the award made by it."

The award was made on August 12 and later the car men voted to reject it and to strike.

BANDITS SEUT GIRL IN VAULT.

Then They Rob Kentucky Bank of the Cash.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

HENDERSON, Ky., Sept. 5.—Smith Mills Deposit Bank was held up and robbed today by two masked bandits, one believed to be a negro. Between \$2,000 and \$4,000 was stolen, all the cash except \$100. The robbers overpowered \$10,000 in Liberty bonds in the vault.

The robbery was the most spectacular in the history of Henderson county. Mrs. Margaret Lilly, clerk, was preparing to close the bank for lunch, when two men walked in and demanded the cash. One pointed a pistol at her and told her not to utter a sound. He then forced her into the vault and shut the door, but did not throw the combination.

Fifteen minutes later the Rev. William Brice, hearing sounds, went in by the rear door and tracing the sounds to the vault opened the door and Miss Lilly fell into his arms unconscious. John Deane, a returned soldier, has been arrested.

## STRIKE OF ACTORS COMES TO AN END

Continued from First Page.

by their president, George M. Cohan, and as a result of this announcement it also seeking recognition.

Indications were yesterday that labor leaders antagonized recognition of the Fidelity League and that this was one of the rocks on which the peace ship foundered on Thursday.

Order Ban on Shuberts.

The stage hands' union last night sent out word to its locals all over the country directing the Shubert Theatres to be "unfair" and directing that every Shubert house in the United States and Canada be closed. This is construed on Broadway as a threat by the Shuberts to the campaign hinted at by Equity leaders recently to embroil the whole of this country and Canada in the theatrical war.

As a result of this nationwide crusade the headquarters of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Machine Operators, which reported to-night that two Shubert houses had been closed already, the first being the Avon Theatre in Pittsburgh, where "Civilian Clothes," a production by Oliver Morosoff, was being shown, and the second being a theatre in Bangor, Me., where "Pro-Flo," a musical comedy, originally produced by John Cort, was being shown.

It was also noted along Broadway that a theatre in Baltimore had been snuffed out. The direction for this wholesale closing was sent out by the stage hands' union in 16 telegrams to its various locals and 300 letters which warned all those who assisted the Shuberts that they would be liable to lose their membership in the union and be subject to other penalties.

Good News in 48 Hours.

Mr. Cohan addressing the meeting, from which non-members were barred, told the 700 Equity members that last Thursday the Producing Managers Association asked him to take assurance to the Fidelity League that he would be interesting news in forty-eight hours.

"Then matters took another turn," said Mr. Cohan. "This afternoon it seemed as though the deadlock was broken. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Augustus Thomas came to my office and asked to see Mr. Harris. After conferring with Mr. Harris for a short time Mr. Thomas came back and told me he had gone before the producing managers and arranged the meeting between them—Equity officers, attorneys for both sides and lawyers—what is now taking place to-night."

"We are not represented at this meeting, because I believe the object is to determine where and how we got on and where we get off. I have told them that already."

He said the producing managers told him the reason why they sent out the statement on Thursday night was because they considered the matter was finally settled. Referring to a report that immediately after giving out this statement the managers had called up Augustus Thomas, which started the new negotiations, Mr. Cohan said, "I understand the negotiation was started by attorneys for both sides. Some of the evening papers said they were started by the Producing Managers Association. I am sure that is not right because I have been close to the Producing Managers Association since I left it. We may get some news from the Producing Managers Association to-night, but whether good or bad, there is one thing we must stand for as an organization; that is recognition. That we must have."

Peace Hope Yet Lives.

There still was hope yesterday that Sam Harris, president of the Producing Managers Association, and Francis Wilson, president of the Actors' Equity Association, might yet sign a peace deed. As one theatrical executive close to one of the biggest managers himself said, "The fact that negotiations had started was an encouraging sign, since earlier in the conflict both sides apparently had sworn by the beard of the prophet never to have anything to do with each other again. Even though the actors had rejected the offer of the managers, this executive felt that this conference would lead to others, since Equity officials and producing managers no longer give one another the silence when they meet."

If such clinics are to be held in the future, H. H. Prayne, general organizer of the State Federation of Labor, while admitting at the Equity mass meeting in the Lexington Theatre yesterday afternoon that there was a possibility, declared that the managers would have to be represented by a committee of their membership rather than by the attorneys who have been handling the portfolio of peace during the last few days. Mr. Prayne told the 2,000 players who formed the mass of the meeting and who cheered at the slightest endorsement of his views, that the managers that they were still defiant, that the lawyers who conducted matters had only muzzed up the situation.

The labor leaders' speech, which was frequently applauded, was noteworthy also for its prediction that if necessary to support the actors labor throughout the country would boycott the theatres, bravely sacrificing the privilege of having money taken away from them at the box office. Mr. Prayne indicated this after announcing that the 75,000 members of the Hatters Union, who stood back of the Danbury batters in their strike, had pledged their support to the actors.

"Organized labor all over the country," said Mr. Prayne, "will show their loyalty if called upon. Then I'd like to see the managers produce a play in any city or town. Organized labor will accept the joy and privilege of going to the theatre when they know they are standing behind you, who have been striving to emancipate the actors."

"This strike cannot be won by court injunctions, or by attacking the funds of members of the Equity, or by buying men and women. This other organization of actors can only win by standing with us, including the Knights of Labor, which has been dead for a quarter of a century. But if there's anything that organized labor in this country is opposed to, it's dual organization established to fight another organization that is striving for justice and right. They're not going to be recognized with my consent. And I think I can still say a few things on the subject."

"I think the time has come now to say to the managers: If you have anything to discuss, send a committee representing you, and keep your high salaried lawyers, who don't know anything about the situation, at home. They are making a Chinese puzzle out of it. The Equity stands to-day where it did at the start, and it's useless for the lawyers to come to us every day with newer and sillier proposals."

A roar of approval showed that he voiced the sentiments of the crowd regarding the latest offer from the managers to hush the strike up. Similarly John Cope of the Equity executive council brought out the attitude of the gathering when he asked them if they were satisfied with their leaders and the management of the strike so far, receiving affirmative shrieks. Mr. Cope counselled the Equity members then to keep cool and do only what their leaders advised them to do, citing the recent unofficial and imprudent action of a closed shop, which was circulated at the meeting.

ACTORS WANT WILSON'S AID.

Proposal That He Act as Arbitrator Made in Chicago.

Chicago, Sept. 5.—A proposal that President Wilson act as arbitrator in the dispute between striking actors and members of the Actors' Equity Association, and the managers, was made here to-day by Burton Churchill, representative of the Equity in Chicago.

"We are asking," he said, "that the proposition be put up to President Wilson because we believe he will accept, able to the actors, managers and all people connected with the stage and to the managers. We are willing to abide by any decision the President may make. If the managers refuse this proposition, we are confident all public opinion will be with us."

Mr. Churchill's announcement followed close on the heels of the managers' declaration that they were tired of empty houses and were prepared to abandon arbitration with the actors and fight the matter out with strike breakers.

Although the managers announced they would reopen all theatres immediately plans for the comeback of "Friendly Enemies," scheduled originally for Monday, retreated further into the distance. The company is still rehearsing, but it was stated at the office of A. H. Woods that the reopening was still indefinite in date, though dealing with a bench seat, a settlement of the present congestion in theatre traffic.

The Selwyns, however, announced that "Challenge" would positively make its debut in the Selwyn Theatre again to-night. Arch Selwyn stated that no threats of trouble had been made by union stage hands in case the show went on with non-union crews bumping the Selwyns. From being gun shy, they intended to open their third "Tea for Three" company with Cecil Spooner as the principal player on September 15 in the Bronx Opera House, apparently not seeing any hoodoo in the fact that this theatre was "pulled" by the movie operators a few days ago. It was believed that the Selwyns were being unfriendly to the true knights of the reel.

strike headquarters as a good example of the need for self-restraint and sweetness and light generally.

First Woman to Strike.

Other speakers were Francis Wilson, who presided; Norman Trevor, Ida Muller of "Chu Chin Chow," who was the first woman striker to walk out; Wilton Lackaye, Paul Turner of the Equity Legal staff; Margaret Vail, niece of President Wilson; Ernest Martin, vice-president of the State Federation of Labor of North Carolina; Raymond Hitchcock, whose own production of "Hitchy-Koo" was called out of the theatre; and the Archdeacon, the Rev. James Grattan Mythen, a member of the Plumb railroad plan committee, who advised the actors to have a national theatre of their own "and get rid of those supermen, the managers."

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Equity Announces Plays.

The managers are not the only producers who are making postponements, for the entertainment committee of the Equity announced that the programme of four one-act plays advertised for Monday night at the Lenox Theatre, 110th street and Lenox avenue, was deferred by George K. Denny, who is directing rehearsals, to Tuesday, with the exception that another star would be added to a cast which already includes Peggy Wood, Ernest Torrence, Ernest Truog, Constance Binney and—naturally—John Barrymore.

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The managers have broken their word and they are themselves distinctly and definitely that the contract offered to us should recognize the Actors' Equity Association, by adroit legal verbiage they have so worded the contract that with the aid of the Actors' Equity Association they could disrupt the Actors' Equity Association.

This, their sole object, the contract they offer to us would bring about. After reading the managers' proposal I can only say that I will never consent to a contract that would destroy the Actors' Equity Association. I shall be loyal to the Actors' Equity Association as long as I am a member. I am a life member."

Equity Strikers Arrested.

A large and interested audience last night saw two champions of the striking Actors Equity Association bounced out of the Hotel Biltmore by a policeman on a journey toward the Night Court.

The occurrence was the finale of an act which Herbert Gelley, an actor, tried to stage in the lobby of the fashionable Hotel while the Actors' Equity League, the anti-strike organization, was holding a meeting in one of the banquet rooms.

Gelley was supported in his performance by Hail L. Oliver, a dramatic director, who had accompanied him to the scene, and who rendered a tenor accompaniment as Gelley poured forth in deep bass tones which filled the lower floor of the hotel the war song of the Equity, which runs:

"One for all  
All for one  
All for Equity."

As he finished the fifteenth stanza the Fidelity members, 700 strong, began to pour out of their meeting room for the street, and Gelley undertook to bar their path and harangue them upon the issue of the stage war. The storm of boos and hisses which swept the lobby at his first words temporarily drowned out the sound of his voice, but when the blast had subsided his tones arose again.

"Shut up!" yelled Alexander Lettwith of the Fidelity as he shook a threatening finger in Gelley's face, and when the command went unheeded he went out for a policeman. Meanwhile Gelley held forth in the lobby, and as George M. Cohan, president of the Fidelity, made his appearance he cried: "Wouldn't you support the American Federation of Labor?"

The answer to this query was a loud and emphatic "No!" which came from 700 lusty throats and was followed by a cyclone of boos for the labor body mentioned.

Lettwith reappeared at this moment with Patrolman Kaiser, and insisted that the officer take the men to the Night Court while he accompanied them to prefer a charge of disorderly conduct.

It was afterward learned that a rumour had also developed inside the meeting when an actor named Charles Hinton talked himself out of his membership in the Fidelity League. He began by asking innumerable odd questions of Mr. Cohan along the line of determining whether the Fidelity League was a union. Mr. Cohan said that it was a union "since they were united to get the theatre back to where it was." Hinton asked the president whether he consented the United States of America a union, and Cohan answered, "Yes, I think so."

This led to considerable laughter and derision, in the midst of which Florence Nash, a member of the board of directors, declared that Hinton was under suspicion as to his loyalty to the league and that an actor named Marcel Rousier had asserted that Hinton had tried to persuade him to resign from the Fidelity.

This led to an uproar, and Hinton, considering that he was denied the privilege of defending himself, promptly announced that he would resign, and his resignation was just as promptly accepted. Thereupon he was escorted to the door amid a salvo of hisses.

Then Mr. Cohan, who had announced that a big benefit of the Fidelity League would be held probably next week to give the Equity benefit, introduced Grace George, who had just joined the Fidelity and who said that if there should be a closed shop she would rather be shut out with the Fidelity than let in with the Equity.

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Mr. Churchill's announcement followed close on the heels of the managers' declaration that they were tired of empty houses and were prepared to abandon arbitration with the actors and fight the matter out with strike breakers.

## SON JOINS UNION HIS FATHER FIGHTS

Young Man Discharged From Parent's Factory for Part in Organizing.

Both Battle to Finish Family Divided by Labor Strife in Jersey Watch Case Plant.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

RIJEN, N. J., Sept. 5.—While John Miller, Sr., met to-day with other owners of the Keystone Watch Case Company here and considered plans for employing new hands to replace the 700 employees who are on strike because they allege the company discharged some of their leaders in organizing a union, John Miller, Jr., his son, who was one of the first seven employees dropped for unionizing activities last Wednesday, met in conference with other strike leaders in another part of the town.

"A true chip of the old block" is what friends of the family said about young John, who while still on cordial personal terms with his pa is standing out for the rights of the employees to organize just as stubbornly as his father is asserting the rights of the owners of the big plant to continue the "open shop" principle.

Young Miller, who has been working his way through the various departments in his father's factory and is now rated an expert engraver, declared he stands with the employees of the plant, of which he may some day be the chief owner, in their efforts to organize.

The elder Miller, who says he had nothing to do with his son's discharge, but recognizes the right of the foreman of the engraving department to get rid of objectionable help, says the young man has done nothing and will do nothing to have the son reinstated. Young Miller married the daughter of a foreman of his father's factory and went to live with her family instead of taking his wife to his parents' home, friends say, largely because of his spirit of independence, although his parents would have welcomed the young people.

Meetings of the strikers to-day are said to have developed a split in which native Americans in one faction opened bitter opposition to what they called "I. W. W. and foreign domination" of the movement, according to reports reaching county officials which are backing the Riverside township committee in its efforts to retain order.

There was no recurrence of yesterday's incident when foreign strikers attacked mechanics loyal to the company.

## COSTA RICA ELECTS EXILE AS PRESIDENT

Dr. Barquero Accepts Offer to Return and Assume Duties.

San Jose, Costa Rica, Sept. 5.—Dr. Francisco Aguilar Barquero, who was third Vice-President of the republic in the administration of President Tinoco, and who left the country when he was accepted a call to the office of Chief Executive of the republic.

Dr. Barquero was requested to assume the office of Chief Executive of the republic by the leading citizens of Costa Rica, acting on a suggestion made by Gen. Quiros, President ad interim, that an appointment of Executive should be made in order to put the Government on a legal basis.

READ TO TOUR COAST ON RECRUITING TRIP

Will Fly NC-4 From Portland to Florida.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 5.—Commander Albert C. Read of the seaplane NC-4 arrived here by airplane to-day to complete final plans for the tour of the winner of the transatlantic flight on a recruiting and educational trip along the coast with Atlantic City as the first stop.

Making a flight from New York with Bob Shank as pilot, Commander Read joined at the Maryland Hotel by Mrs. Read, who came by train, and both then went up for an aerial survey of the resort. It was Mrs. Read's first flight.

At the conclusion of the run "Commander Read declared: 'We shall fly from Rockaway Beach to Atlantic City on the morning of September 22, remaining throughout that day and most of the following day, then proceed to Portland, Me. After a brief stay in Portland we shall stop at Boston, Providence, H. I., and another port or two, and thence southward to Florida. The primary purpose of the tour is to arouse interest in the navy and particularly in the aviation branch.'

Those who will accompany the NC-4 in addition to Commander Read, will be in charge, include Lieut. Walter Hinson, Ensign H. C. Rodd, Ensign P. Talbot and Chief Machinist's Mate S. C. Kesler, E. S. Rhoades and L. V. Moore. Read, Rhoades and Lieut. Mason were members of the original crew of the NC-4, while Ensign Talbot served on the Aroostook, the mother ship.

The expedition will be headed by the destroyer Laeol and will be accompanied by a flotilla of flying boats. The NC-4 will be moored at the pier of the Atlantic City Yacht Club.

KEY MEN BAR BURLESON.

Western Union Association Refuses Honorary Membership.

DENVER, Sept. 5.—Honorary membership in the Association of Western Union Employees, a national organization, was denied Postmaster General Burleson at the annual conference of the association here to-day. A report of the committee on resolutions was adopted recommending that a resolution extending honorary membership be rejected.

The report said Mr. Burleson "expressed no compunction in rejecting the association's agreement with the company and deliberately denied us the benefit of the retroactive pay."

The report added that he displayed his "true heartlessness in reducing the rate of pay for Sunday work, and kept the association in a dangerous and nervous suspense for three months before expressing his decision."

KNOXVILLE NEGROES DETERMINE TO VOTE

Race Riots Laid to City Officers in Campaign Fight.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 5.—Encouraged by white politicians, negroes held mass meetings to-night, addressed by members of their own race, in an effort to encourage all to vote in to-morrow's election an primary Mayor John E. McMillan, Democrat, is opposed by E. W. Neal, Republican, although the election is theoretically non-partisan in character. Ninety-five per cent. of such negroes as vote are expected to favor McMillan.

Of the total registration of 20,000, are 7,000 women who will vote for the first time here to-morrow. It is also the first election in greater Knoxville. The old city was Democratic by a small majority, but the new city is Republican by from 1,500 to 2,000, depending on the way the women vote. Failure of city and county officials to call a special election to prevent the recent outbreak between the races here have become a sharp issue in to-morrow's contest.

A Mayor will be elected and the eight highest of twenty candidates will fill in a runoff two weeks later to fill four places on the City Commission.

Arrests of rioters continue, with more than sixty now in jail. The grand jury has adjourned till next Tuesday to give the officers an opportunity to keep up with it. The trial day of Maurice Mayo is to be announced to-morrow, but the negro may be kept in the Chattanooga jail until the trial day. Both the whites and the negroes wounded in the rioting and the deaths of five negroes are improving, with no deaths expected.

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## SURE BASE FOR NEW BUILDING.

Precautions Taken Against Quick-sand for State Structures.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

ALBANY, Sept. 5.—Special precautions are being taken on the site of the State office building in Albany just west of the Capitol, to determine if the strata of quicksand, which is known to be under a part of the Capitol and which was discovered under the centre of the education building, also runs through the office building along Fulton street.

will be sunk to bed rock, or 200 feet, and twenty-six will be sunk fifty feet. In addition, four test pits, eight feet square, will be sunk twenty-five feet.

Officials of State Engineer Williams' office explained to-day that harm might come to the Capitol and surrounding buildings should a vein of quicksand be uncovered and proper precautions were not taken to prevent its overflowing the land.

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